# INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

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**Size of LETTER Limited to 4 Pages Temporarily**

Until further notice it will be necessary to hold the INFORMATION LETTER to a maximum of four pages each issue. In cases where it is impossible to hold the essential news and information to this limited number of pages the Association will bulletin the surplus material in mimeographed form, to go out either as an insert or a separate mailing.

Limitation of the size of the LETTER is due to a current negotiation period between the typesetters union and Washington printing establishments, during which time no overtime hours will be worked. Because the LETTER always seeks to give its readers a considerable volume of late Thursday and Friday developments, each week it is dependent on overtime work. Late copy that cannot be handled in the reduced number of printed pages will reach Association members in mimeographed form during this interim period.

## Army Not Planning Canned Fish or Meat Purchases

The Army does not contemplate the purchase of any canned fish nor does it plan to receive delivery of any canned meats this year, the Association has been informed by the Office of the Quartermaster General. Sufficient stocks of canned fish are on hand, the Army reports, to supply its requirements, and supplies for other government agencies will be met by the Department of Agriculture.

At present the Army is setting up a level on canned meats and is deciding the question of rate of turnover. During the fourth quarter, the Association is informed, the Army will make purchases of canned meats for delivery in the first quarter of 1947, but the amount of such purchases probably will not be determined until October 1, 1946.

# Canned Fruit Price Order

The price regulation for the 1946 pack of canned fruit will be issued August 19 to become effective August 20. This action is taken by Amendment 2 to Supplement 19. Printed copies of the regulation are not yet available but the Association has mailed to fruit canners an abstract containing all of the essential information needed to figure prices. Many of the tables of permitted increases and price ranges remain the same as last year, but the bulletin reprints in full all of those tables which have been changed or added. The most important changes are the addition of tables providing for price adjustments to reflect approved increases in basic wage rates and increases in the cost of sugar. The new amendment does not cover apples, applesauce, Concord grapejuice, and cranberries. These will be added to the regulation when grower prices for them are designated by the Department of Agriculture.

## Processed Cherries Are Removed from Price Control

Effective August 14, processed cherries are removed from price control, under terms of Amendment 46 to Supplementary Order 132. This decontrol affects canned, frozen, brined, maraschino, glace cherries and preserves, jellies and fountain fruits made from cherries but it does not apply to processed products that are made by blending cherries with products that are still under price control. For instance, such products as canned fruit cocktail, apple-cherry jelly, cherry flavored syrups and chocolate covered cherries are not price exempt under this amendment, OPA explains. Previously, OPA had removed ceilings from fresh red sour cherries on August 8, by Amendment 43 to SO-132.

## Efforts to Relieve California Box Car Shortage

Shortages of box cars needed for shipment of empty cans in the San Francisco area are threatening to affect the current California pack of peaches, pears, and fruit cocktail. If the situation is not relieved, the coming tomato pack also may be affected. The National Canners Association, the Canners League of California, growers organizations, individual canners, and can manufacturers made concerted appeals early this week to the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion for Federal assistance that will assure a sufficient number of cars to avert loss of crops. Other appeals have been made to the Office

of Defense Transportation and the American Association of Railroads.

When the situation was first called to the attention of the Office of Defense Transportation by USDA, ODT replied that as a matter of policy it would not issue any special directive. As a result of this denial of relief, the assistance of OWM&R was sought and USDA renewed its request to ODT for some form of help. Officials of OWM&R have recognized the inevitable loss of food that would result from a container shortage and have promised that they would make every effort to obtain relief from the car shortage during the relatively short period of time involved.

The shortage of box cars earlier this summer threatened full production of canned peas in Wisconsin. In that instance, heavier allocations of cars to can manufacturers in the Chicago area by the AAR averted any crop losses.

## TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING

### BAE Reports Prospective Production Slightly Higher Than Previous Record-High of 1944

A record-high production of 3,194,800 tons of tomatoes for processing in 1946 was indicated on August 1, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This prospective production is almost 19 percent above the 1945 production of 2,688,400 tons, about 36 percent above the 1935-44 average and 1 percent more than the previous record-high of 3,169,900 tons in 1944.

The preliminary estimate of acreage for harvest in 1946 is 596,800 acres. This compares with 547,650 acres harvested in 1945 and 470,000 acres for the 10-year average. In arriving at the acreages for harvest in 1946, an allowance was made by States for abandoned or unharvested acreage about in line with average loss of recent years.

A 1946 yield of 5.35 tons per acre is now indicated. This compares with 4.91 tons obtained in 1945 and 4.98 tons for the 1935-44 average. The prospective yield of 7.3 tons in California is somewhat better than average in that State where more than one-fifth of the estimated acreage is located. Better than average yields are also in prospect in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. Favorable conditions also extended from Iowa southward to the Ozarks and eastward to Kentucky and Tennessee. In parts of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, blight was spreading and proving serious in local areas.

Details by States of the 1946 acreage planted in tomatoes for processing as compared with 1945 are shown in the following table:

| State | 1945 revised | 1946 preliminary |
|---|---|---|
| | *Acres* | *Acres* |
| New York | 26,200 | 32,000 |
| New Jersey | 43,100 | 39,000 |
| Pennsylvania | 37,200 | 43,000 |
| Ohio | 28,500 | 36,200 |
| Indiana | 105,800 | 120,000 |
| Illinois | 12,000 | 14,000 |
| Michigan | 5,800 | 6,600 |
| Wisconsin | 1,500 | 1,200 |
| Iowa | 2,900 | 3,000 |
| Missouri | 9,400 | 13,000 |
| Delaware | 10,500 | 10,000 |
| Maryland | 45,800 | 42,000 |
| Virginia | 35,200 | 28,500 |
| South Carolina | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Florida | 2,300 | 2,700 |
| Kentucky | 2,600 | 3,100 |
| Tennessee | 2,200 | 3,000 |
| Arkansas | 11,600 | 16,000 |
| Oklahoma | 1,800 | 1,700 |
| Texas | 22,160 | 28,900 |
| Colorado | 4,900 | 4,800 |
| Utah | 7,400 | 7,500 |
| California | 120,800 | 132,000 |
| Other States | 3,990 | 4,600 |
| U. S. Total | 547,650 | 596,800 |

## Estimated Fruit Production

Following are totals from Department of Agriculture estimates of 1946 indicated production of fruits on August 1, 1946, compared with 1945 production:

| Commodity | Production 1945 | Production Indicated Aug. 1, 1946 |
|---|---|---|
| Apples (commercial) | *1,000 bushels* | |
| Eastern | 14,407 | 48,281 |
| Central | 8,297 | 17,586 |
| Western | 45,338 | 45,861 |
| Total | 68,042 | 111,728 |
| Peaches | *1,000 bushels* | |
| Calif. clingstone | 19,418 | 21,293 |
| Calif. freestone | 11,418 | 12,709 |
| Washington-Oregon | 2,967 | 3,202 |
| Total U. S. | 81,564 | 82,898 |
| Pears | *1,000 bushels* | |
| California Bartlett | 12,292 | 9,542 |
| Oregon Bartlett | 2,250 | 2,180 |
| Washington Bartlett | 5,800 | 6,825 |
| Total U. S. | 34,011 | 33,101 |
| Apricots | *tons, fresh basis* | |
| California | 159,000 | 298,000 |
| Washington | 23,700 | 27,100 |
| Utah | 10,900 | 5,400 |
| Prunes | *tons, fresh basis* | |
| West Washington-Oregon | 79,700 | 97,400 |
| East Washington-Oregon | 38,300 | 36,400 |
| Sweet Cherries | *tons* | |
| 5 East States | 4,180 | 6,180 |
| 7 West States | 97,610 | 96,370 |
| 12 States | 101,790 | 102,550 |
| Sour Cherries | *tons* | |
| 5 East States | 34,400 | 85,600 |
| 7 West States | 12,000 | 12,010 |
| 12 States | 46,400 | 97,610 |

## PROCESSING SNAP BEANS

### Prospective Production Reported by BAE about 5% Less Than Tonnage in 1945

Snap bean production prospects improved slightly during July and on August 1 a total of 210,200 tons was indicated for canning and freezing in 1946, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This prospective production is about 5 percent less than the 1945 crop of 220,000 tons but exceeds by 43 percent the average production of 146,700 tons.

A yield of 1.66 tons per acre was indicated on August 1 for 1946. This compares with 1.68 tons obtained in 1945 and 1.67 tons for the 1935-44 period. Conditions were favorable in July for growing the crop from Virginia westward across Tennessee and into Arkansas and Oklahoma. Crop prospects also improved in Oregon and Utah and a few other widely scattered States.

In Michigan and Wisconsin, the need for additional rain was becoming apparent by the end of July and production prospects were less favorable than they were on July 1. Declines were also registered in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. But the reduced tonnage indicated for these States was more than offset by the more favorable crop which was developing from Virginia westward to the Ozarks and in Oregon and Utah.

Details by States of the 1946 acreage planted in snap beans for processing, compared with 1945, follow:

| State | 1945 harvested | 1946 indicated |
|---|---|---|
| | *Acres* | *Acres* |
| Maine | 2,550 | 3,000 |
| New York | 20,800 | 22,000 |
| New Jersey | 3,100 | 3,000 |
| Pennsylvania | 4,600 | 4,300 |
| Indiana | 1,300 | 600 |
| Michigan | 6,700 | 7,000 |
| Wisconsin | 9,900 | 10,000 |
| Missouri | 600 | 500 |
| Delaware | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Maryland | 11,500 | 10,900 |
| Virginia | 3,200 | 2,900 |
| North Carolina | 2,000 | 1,700 |
| South Carolina | 5,300 | 5,300 |
| Georgia | 2,200 | 2,400 |
| Florida | 13,000 | 9,500 |
| Tennessee | 4,000 | 3,500 |
| Mississippi | 1,400 | 1,100 |
| Arkansas | 8,800 | 9,800 |
| Louisiana | 3,500 | 3,800 |
| Oklahoma | 5,000 | 4,800 |
| Texas | 9,000 | 8,000 |
| Colorado | 1,200 | 1,300 |
| Utah | 570 | 400 |
| Washington | 1,500 | 1,700 |
| Oregon | 4,400 | 4,400 |
| California | 1,060 | 900 |
| Other States | 2,130 | 1,700 |
| U. S. Total | 130,710 | 126,800 |

## PROCESSING SWEET CORN

### Increase in Prospective Tonnage Set at about 12% over 1945 in BAE Estimate

The August 1 indicated 1946 production of 1,270,700 tons of sweet corn for processing comes within 1 percent of equalling the record-high 1942 production of 1,282,500 tons, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The tonnage now in prospect exceeds the 1945 production of 1,129,200 tons by about 12 percent and is more than a third larger than the average production of 935,320 tons for the 1935-44 period.

The preliminary estimate of acreage for harvest is placed at 507,300 acres. This compares with 482,870 acres harvested in 1945 and 405,340 acres for the 10-year average. In arriving at the acreage for harvest in 1946, an allowance was made by States for abandoned or unharvested acreage about in line with the average losses of recent years.

A yield of 2.50 tons per acre was indicated on August 1 for 1946. This yield is more than last year's estimated yield of 2.34 tons and the average of 2.32 tons, but it is not a record high, having been exceeded in 1938 (2.56 tons); 1939 (2.66 tons); 1941 (2.56 tons) and 1942 (2.64 tons).

Details by States of the 1946 acreage, as compared with 1945, follow:

| State | 1945 revised *Acres* | For harvest 1946 *Acres* |
|---|---|---|
| Maine | 11,600 | 11,000 |
| New Hampshire | 410 | 400 |
| Vermont | 750 | 800 |
| New York | 24,000 | 26,000 |
| Pennsylvania | 12,600 | 13,000 |
| Ohio | 20,300 | 21,500 |
| Indiana | 39,200 | 40,000 |
| Illinois | 62,900 | 72,000 |
| Michigan | 2,900 | 3,200 |
| Wisconsin | 97,200 | 108,000 |
| Minnesota | 86,300 | 81,000 |
| Iowa | 46,800 | 42,000 |
| Nebraska | 2,700 | 3,000 |
| Delaware | 3,100 | 3,000 |
| Maryland | 38,400 | 40,000 |
| Virginia | 700 | 600 |
| Idaho | 6,800 | 8,000 |
| Utah | 1,800 | 2,000 |
| Washington | 11,900 | 15,500 |
| Oregon | 5,700 | 8,300 |
| Other States | 6,810 | 8,000 |
| U. S. Total | 482,870 | 507,300 |

## Correction

In last week's INFORMATION LETTER, under the heading "Indiana Fieldmen Organize", it was erroneously reported that Horace E. Wise, vice president of the organization, is with Standard Brands. Mr. Wise is with Stokely Foods, Inc., of Indianapolis.

## A. W. Anderson Is Appointed To Fisheries Committee of FAO

A. W. Anderson, Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Commercial Fisheries, has been named as the United States member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Fisheries for the International Food and Agriculture Organization, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug has announced.

Mr. Anderson will attend the first meeting of the Committee at Bergen, Norway, on August 23, to be held in preparation for the second annual conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in Copenhagen beginning September 2.

At the conclusion of the Standing Advisory Committee meeting in Bergen Mr. Anderson will attend the conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Copenhagen in the capacity of fishery adviser to Under Secretary Dodd of the Department of Agriculture, the United States delegate.

## CANNED CORN SAMPLING PROGRAM IS DESCRIBED

In preparation for the public Food and Drug hearing next spring on a standard of identity, a minimum standard of quality, and a standard of fill-of-container for all types of canned corn, intensive studies are being carried on by the canning industry and by the Food and Drug Administration. During the present canning season samples are being obtained both from warehouse stocks and by means of special experimental packs. The work is being done in all of the corn canning districts so that samples will be available representing the entire industry as fully as can be done in one season. After the season is over the samples will be examined and the data compiled for presentation at the hearing.

FDA has sent instructions to each of their stations in corn canning areas for inspectors to visit canning factories and obtain samples with detailed information about the methods of preparation, etc. It is necessary for the Government to have adequate samples showing the different varieties, styles of pack, special packs, fill-of-container, etc. In order to establish the proper substandard level they must have especially samples representing both low standard and substandard qualities. FDA also will need to prepare certain experimental packs with respect to fill-of-container, etc.

The canning industry sampling program is briefly as follows:

*Whole kernel brine pack.* Samples of known history will be obtained by the various regional canning associations working with the experiment stations and the Corn Canners Service Bureau.

*Whole kernel vacuum pack.* Samples of known history will be obtained direct from canners preparing this style of pack.

*Cream style corn.* Technologists from the research laboratories of the can manufacturing firms and the National Canners Association will visit each district and obtain commercially prepared samples representing the different varieties, etc. Special experimental packs also will be prepared by the technologists.

The cooperation of all corn canners is requested in this sampling program, which is of vital importance to the industry.

## Subsidy Amendments Mailed

Copies of Amendment 1 to Supplement 13, and Amendment 13 to Supplement 13 were mailed this week to all canners and State Association secretaries. These are the amendments described in last week's INFORMATION LETTER which permit processors to refigure ceilings for canned vegetables of the 1946 pack so as to include in civilian ceilings the amounts formerly represented by subsidy payments.

## Dry Bean Ceiling Increased

Increases in the maximum prices of dry edible beans where necessary to offset discontinued subsidy payments are granted under terms of Amendment 14, to 2nd Revised Maximum Price Regulation 270, which was made effective August 14 by the Office of Price Administration.

The increases are allowed only on beans in the possession of processors and dealers on and after July 29, 1946, on which no subsidy was paid or is payable, OPA said. Subsidies were discontinued on July 28, 1946. The increases may be passed on to subsequent handlers by giving notice that the price for the particular lot has been increased.

If processors or dealers have on hand or receive in the future 1945 crop beans on which a subsidy is no longer payable and on which no subsidy has been paid, OPA said, they

may substitute the former support price, if it is higher, for the f.o.b. price named in the regulation in figuring their ceiling prices.

## Set-aside Removed on Maine Sardines, Atlantic Herring

The 1946 packs of Atlantic sea herring and Maine sardines were exempted from set-aside requirements through the issuance by the Department of Agriculture of Amendment 21 to War Food Order 44, effective August 11. The amendment also removed the set-aside requirements on canned Atlantic and Pacific mackerel packed after August 10. Canners are required, however, to continue to submit pack reports until March 31, 1947.

The set-aside requirements on these products were removed, the Department stated, because of recent reductions in requirements for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other relief needs.

## Export Tinplate Allocation

Fourth quarter allocations of tinplate for export have been fixed at 136,000 tons, the Civilian Production Administration announced August 10. The allocation is 24,000 tons greater than that for the third quarter, which was held to a low level because needs of the domestic food pack were heaviest in that quarter, CPA stated.

## Alaska Salmon Pack Report

The following table, prepared from preliminary statistics compiled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shows the pack of Alaska canned salmon, by regions and varieties, through August 3, 1946, as compared with a similar period in 1945. The figures for Western Alaska are final as of July 31, 1945 and 1946.

| Districts | Aug. 3, 1946 *Cases* | Aug. 4, 1945 *Cases* |
|---|---|---|
| Western Alaska | 694,464 | 704,553 |
| Central Alaska | 940,055 | 1,708,585 |
| Southeastern Alaska | 193,227 | 448,165 |
| Total | 1,827,746 | 2,861,303 |
| **Species** | | |
| King | 30,908 | 36,800 |
| Red | 983,092 | 1,111,827 |
| Pink | 470,322 | 1,133,048 |
| Chum | 270,552 | 501,901 |
| Coho | 73,872 | 77,727 |
| Total | 1,827,746 | 2,861,303 |

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## U. S.-Canada Apple Pact

The Canadian and United States Departments of Agriculture have announced the conclusions reached at a meeting of the Joint Apple Committee of the two nations in Toronto, August 9 and 10, regarding marketing of Canadian apples in the United States during the 1946-47 season.

The marketing plan provides for export from Canada to the United States of one million bushels of packed apples, and two million bushels of processing apples, with an additional 250 thousand bushels for either fresh market or processing at the option of the Canadian industry, making a possible total export of 3,250,000 bushels to the United States.

## USDA Meat Board Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended August 3 totaled 341 million pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This production was 11 percent below the 384 million pounds in the preceding week but 28 percent above the 267 million pounds produced during the corresponding week of last year.

## Labor Recruitment Outline

A comprehensive check list of methods of recruiting cannery labor, prepared by the Regional office of the United States Employment Service at Cleveland, Ohio, may be obtained by writing to Frank H. Shirk, Chief of Standards and Methods, United States Employment Service, Union Commerce Building, Cleveland 14, Ohio.

The check list is an outline of a "Food Against Famine" Campaign Plan submitted to USES managers in Ohio. Although developed for a particular campaign, the outline is adaptable to any recruitment drive for cannery labor, either during the remainder of the current season or in subsequent years. In addition, the outline may be of value as a source of ideas for local recruitment of labor by individual canners or groups of canners.

## Pallet Sizes Standardized

Two sizes of pallets used in the handling of packaged foods by processors, wholesalers, and other distributors, were adopted as standard sizes by a conference on simplified procedures on August 15. The approved sizes are 40 x 48 inches and 40 x 32 inches.

The conference was held under the auspices of the Division of Simplified Practice, National Bureau of Standards, U. S. Department of Commerce, and was the outgrowth of more than a year's study and discussion.

Standards adopted under the simplified practice procedure are recommendations for voluntary acceptance.

## OPA Enforcement Men Leave

The resignations of Herman A. Greenberg, director of food enforcement for the Office of Price Administration, and Joseph Forer, director of apparel and industrial materials enforcement, were announced August 12 by Price Administrator Paul Porter.

## Import Controls Removed

Canned crabmeat, fish meal, poultry and products, and dried fruits are among 27 commodities on which import controls were lifted effective August 15. This action was taken by the Department of Agriculture through the issuance of Amendment 14 to War Food Order 63.